

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for assigning a device identifier to a device, the method comprising:

receiving a request at a server from the device for the device identifier, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device;

obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being unique from device identifiers of other devices identified by the server and distinct from a network address of the device, wherein the device identifier is obtained at the server and associated by the server with the correlation data from the device in response to the request from the device;

marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

sending the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device;

marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device, wherein the ~~acknowledgement~~acknowledgment is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device; and

sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second acknowledgment from the device; and

sending a second confirmation to the device.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising managing a set of device entries at the server, wherein each of the device entries comprises a unique device identifier, a status indicator to indicate a status of the corresponding device identifier, and correlation data associated with the corresponding device identifier.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the correlation data comprises:

device data to particularly identify the corresponding device; and
user data to identify a particular user of the corresponding device.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the device entries further includes a timestamp, the method further comprising setting the timestamp when the status is marked as pending.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the device identifier comprises:

generating the device identifier before the request from the device is received at the server;

marking the status of the device identifier as unused; and
locating the device identifier having the status marked as unused after the request is received.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the device identifier comprises generating the device identifier after receiving the request.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising marking the status of the device identifier as unused if the acknowledgment is not received after a time out period.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and
 - sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.
10. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a device identifier for a device, the method comprising:
 - sending a request for the device identifier to a server, the device identifier being unique from device identifiers of other devices identified by the server and distinct from a network address of the device, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device;
 - sending an acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device; and
 - using the device identifier after receiving a confirmation from the server, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein a timestamp is also received from the server, and wherein the acknowledgment comprises the device identifier and the timestamp.
12. (canceled)
13. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12, claim 10,~~ wherein the correlation data comprises:
 - device data to particularly identify the device; and
 - user data to identify a particular user of the device.
14. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending a second acknowledgment to the server if the confirmation has not been received after a time out period.

15. (currently amended) A system for assigning a device identifier to a device, the system comprising:

an assignment system for managing an assignment of the device identifier at a server, wherein at least a portion of the assignment system is implemented by instructions stored on a data storage device, wherein the assignment system is configured to:

obtain the device identifier in response to a request, the device identifier being unique from device identifiers of other devices identified by the server and distinct from a network address of the device,

mark a status of the device identifier as pending, and

mark the status of the device identifier as in use in response to an acknowledgment of the device identifier from the device; and
a server communication system configured to:

receive the request from the device, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device,

send the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device,

send a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the acknowledgement acknowledgment is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device, and

receive the acknowledgment from the device, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a request system for obtaining the device identifier from the server, wherein the request system generates the request and the acknowledgment;

a device communication system for sending the request and the acknowledgment to the server, and for receiving the device identifier and the confirmation from the server;
and

an identifier system that uses the device identifier after the confirmation is received.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising:
 - a management system for managing a set of device entries, wherein each of the device entries comprises a unique device identifier, a status indicator to indicate a status of the corresponding device identifier, and correlation data associated with the corresponding device identifier; and
 - a comparison system for obtaining one of the device entries based on correlation data for the device.

18. (currently amended) A program product stored on a recordable data storage medium for assigning device identifiers, which when executed comprises:

program code for receiving a request for the device identifier at a server, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with a device;

program code for obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being unique from device identifiers of other devices identified by the server and distinct from a network address of the device;

program code for marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

program code for sending the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device;

program code for marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device, wherein the acknowledgement acknowledgment is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device; and

program code for sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

19. (original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:
 - program code for sending the request to the server;

- program code for sending the acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server; and
- program code for using the device identifier after receiving the confirmation from the server.
20. (original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:
- program code for reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and
- program code for sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the device identifier prior to the request is indicative of an unused status of the device identifier.